

RESIDENTIAL PRODUCT & TECHNOLOGY NEWS @ ISE 2007

This special edition HiddenWires newsletter looks at new products and technology for the residential custom install market at ISE 2007. For further coverage visit www.ise.hiddenwires.co.uk.

The focus at this year's event is on supporting the 'custom' side of residential installation. User interfaces have improved control capabilities, and more choice in terms of graphics and finishes to blend in with the home's décor. There are custom projection screens on show, various design tools, and networks that simplify the integration and installation process. Loudspeaker manufacturers have been busy as ever, concentrating on providing good-quality reproduction, as well as on products that are easy and discreet to install. Look out for the many new in-wall, on-wall and in-ceiling products on show. There is also a move to integrate more PC functions with total home control within wireless remotes and panels, there are even more HDTV products, and more support for the ubiquitous iPod.

Editor: Yasmin Hashmi

Publisher: Stella Plumbridge

Email: info@hiddenwires.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8761 1042

HiddenWires, published by SYPHA, is the online magazine for custom installed home automation and home entertainment with over 150,000 monthly visitors. A subscription form is available at www.hiddenwires.co.uk.

Copyright SYPHA 2007. All rights reserved. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, SYPHA cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Automation and Control

The new **ELAN Home Systems (stand O80)** Olé Film Interactive Touchpad initially offers over 1500 design possibilities. Photographic-quality, backlit slide-in films in a wide variety of styles, themes and colours have been carefully designed to match virtually any taste. They also offer a choice of 13, 17 and 25 function layouts, ranging from basic to complete whole-house control. Compatible with all ELAN multiroom controllers, Olé can be also used with any system through its IR-learning capabilities.

Another customisable controller is the **Dynalite (stand M130)** DTP160 LCD Colour Touchscreen. Based on Windows, the DTP160 allows display graphics to be easily created using standard HTML authoring tools such as FrontPage or Dreamweaver, providing complete design flexibility of custom user pages. It also has a clip-on cover facility to accommodate fascia options of virtually any architectural surface medium for décor matching.

Following **AMX's (stands C30 and F60)** acquisition of Endeleo, Autopatch and Matrix Audio Designs, media distribution products from all three companies are being shown operating with AMX NetLinx controllers, Modero touchscreen panels and handheld remotes, and MAX multimedia servers. Recent advances in AMX products include intercom-equipped Modero touchpanel control units with VoIP, and ZigBee-powered Mio Modero R-3 and R-4 handheld wireless remotes for controlling the home's electrical devices.

Crestron (stand F10) is launching the TPMC-8X WiFi touchpanel, a new addition to its range of wireless media centre touchpanels. Available in a new compact design, the TPMC-8X allows users to control all systems, including lighting, heating, security, blinds/curtains and more at the touch of a button. Users are also able to surf the Internet, stream

digital media, email and carry out other PC-based tasks. The TPMC-8X features an embedded Windows XP operating system, 802.11 a/b/g wireless capabilities, more than 1.5GB of memory, an 8.4-inch SVGA screen, built-in Bluetooth technology, a biometric scanner, a stereo speaker system and a microphone.

Other new controllers to look out for include the MSC-400 Master System Controller from **Universal Remote Control (stand H124)**. The MSC-400 is designed to seamlessly harness the power of sophisticated home entertainment systems while taming their complexity, and to operate with four compatible URC remote controls for flexibility, automation power, installation speed, and superior programming and diagnostic capabilities.

Home Networking

The **Abitana (stand M10)** Home Network multimedia networking system is designed for complete flexibility and uses one universal connector to connect TVs, hi-fi, phones, faxes, PCs, printers, video recorders, DVD players, cameras etc to the network. High-tech cable is concealed inside walls, panelling, cable ducts or flooring, and is routed to a central communications cabinet. With no impairment to the signal quality, each connection point can be used indiscriminately for phone, PC, and radio or TV, the function being determined by connecting short patch cords in the communications cabinet. The system is designed to be future proof and supports Gigabit Ethernet as standard.

Lighting

AMX (stands C30 and F60) is showing the new Radia Eclipse Series full-feature lighting family, designed to make configuring, integrating and installing lighting with AMX control systems easier than ever. Other new lighting products include the **Helvar (stand G52)** Lighting Router that supports up to 40 input devices

Music On Demand Experience

MODE is an elegant interface that blends into your décor and your lifestyle. A full color screen allows you to see what your entertainment system is doing and lets you decide what is going to happen next. That same ability extends to the entire family. Up to eight different music or video sources can be enjoyed independently in up to eight different areas of the home at the same time.

 **SpeakerCraft**



MODE
Music On Demand Experience

over a distance of 300m, and can also handle up to 252 channels of dimming, switching or ballast control over a distance of 1km. The **Dynalite (stand M130)** DDMC802 modular 8-channel multipurpose device provides a range of control technologies in one convenient unit, including leading-edge and trailing-edge dimming, switched on/off relay control and ballast control.

Multiroom

SpeakerCraft (stand J108) is offering the first multizone system to show actual iPod song information, including song titles, artists, albums, music genres and user-defined playlists, in every room via the SpeakerCraft MODE high-resolution colour display. With the MODE connected to a SpeakerCraft MZC multizone control system, the iPod becomes one of many sources available. Designed to integrate easily with any home décor, the MODE features navigation control with which iPod users will be familiar. A further set of controls manages information from hard drive music servers, and AM/FM radio tuners as well as controlling other sources via infra-red commands.

The new ColourPad from **Living Control (stand Q110)** is a luxurious full-colour version of the VideoPad touchscreen for the Living Control multiroom media system. As compact as a standard double-mains socket, the ColourPad is designed for easy installation, using an RJ45 socket rather than an 8-way connector, and a magnetic fascia that is available in a range of finishes. Indeed the colour of its high-resolution TFT display can also be customised to match virtually any décor, and a simple back-lit menu presents an array of easy-to-read layered menus.

Other multiroom systems to look out for are the **Niles (stand L30)** ICS Whole House Audio System that supports various sources including the iPod; the plug'n'play **ReQuest (stand L30)** iQ System that is based on music-server technology; and the **WHD (stand L90)** DAM6000 multiroom audio system that is based on KNX/EIB.

Home Cinema

CodexNovus (stand F110) is introducing the DML 200, DML 1000, and DML 1600 Digital Media Libraries, as well as the DV-1 Digital Media Reader. While the three libraries have different storage capacities,

with the top-of-the-line DML 1600 sporting 1.6TB, each allows the user to access an entire collection of movies, music, and other media at the touch of a button. Each also supports the highest resolution imagery currently on the market, as well as 5.1 and even 7.1 audio.

For those needing a custom electrical projection screen, **Projecta (stand F70)** has simplified the process with custom adjustments including: shortening of projection screen fabric; shortening of case and projection screen fabric; variation in borders; case in a different colour; motor mounted on the right rather than left; fabric mounted back to front (projection side at the back); extra long projection screen fabric; and extra black painted projection screen fabric. In addition, the new Screen Designer planning software allows installers and integrators to create their own screen, make a PDF and fax this to Projecta to build.

The **dnp (stand H60)** Supernova Screen optical front projection screen is designed to support front projection in bright environments and deliver ten times higher contrast and two times brighter images than standard front screens. The company is also presenting the dnp Supernova Flex Screen, a retractable version of the front projection screen that disappears into a stylish wall-mounted enclosure to complement modern interior designs.

New screens are also being shown by **Stewart Filmscreen (stand F110)**. The new products include several new CinemaScope (2.4:1) screens, and acoustically transparent screens that include one with new FireHawk G3 1080p screen material. Other home cinema product manufacturers to look out for include **Sony (stand C70)** with new home cinema and front projection projectors; and **projectiondesign (stand F80)** with the new cineo3+ 1080 projector.

CINEAK Europe (stand J83) is introducing two new models to its collection of luxury theatre seats. The Fortuny deluxe chair is now available with an incline mechanism, allowing it to be placed against a wall while still retaining full functionality. For those who do not like typical home theatre seats, CINEAK is also offering the Intimo chair made of box springs and feather- and foamflake-filled cushions.

Audio and AV Components

Meridian Audio (stand M108) is introducing the C Series, a line of rack-mounting processors, amplifiers and controllers designed specifically for installation applications. First to emerge are four products, the C50 10-channel power amplifier, C51 Active Crossover/Amplifier, C52 Active Subwoofer Controller and C61 Surround Processor. All are packaged in an elegant 19-inch rack-mounting form factor with a removable inset glass front panel. The current units are all 2U high.

Meridian Audio is also showing a new surround DVD receiver system, the G95. This includes a full 5.1 DVD-Audio/Video surround receiver with stereo and surround modes, a robust slot-loading DVD drive and five built-in 100W digital power amplifiers to drive the user's choice of passive loudspeakers, plus a line-level output for an active subwoofer. It plays audio CDs, MP3 CDs, Video CDs, DVD-Video, and DVD-Audio discs including the DVD side of DualDisc hybrids, and offers on-board decoding of Dolby Digital, DTS, MPEG, MP3, and MLP data streams for stereo and multichannel playback. Stereo and multichannel digital audio outputs are also available via HDMI, at up to 192kHz.

Loudspeakers

Genelec (stand J60) has launched three new 'aesthetic' active monitoring systems. Two models in the range, the AIW25 Active In-Wall and AIC25 Active In-Ceiling systems, can be hidden behind walls or in ceilings. They feature a perfectly-matched, separate RAM2 remote amplifier module, and come with enclosures to maximise performance and ease installation. New construction brackets are also available. The AIW25 also employs Genelec's DCW technology, which ensures high-quality stereo imaging and frequency balance, even in difficult environments. The other model in the Genelec active monitoring range is the AOW312 Active On-Wall loudspeaker. This has a shallow depth of just 175mm (6.5 inches) for easy aesthetic integration, and is designed to serve two environments: sides and surrounds for large scale rooms (>9000 cubic feet) where HT324 or larger mains speakers are used; and the front wall for lesser-sized rooms (5000 - 8000 cubic feet) where space behind the screen and the wall are limited.



TV, Phone, PC, Internet, Music,... Anytime.... Anywhere.

Abitana's Home Network: A universal and flexible cable network offering full home integration of phone-, data- and all types of multimedia audio/video/TV applications

- Complete System offering: cable, connectors, electronics, cabinets
- One type of cable and one type of outlet for all applications
- Next generation high definition cabling
- Compatible with most home automation and multiroom AV systems
- Adapted to self-build or project developments
- Certified Installer Training program

Visit us at ISE at booth M10 - www.abitana.com



KEF (stand I130) is introducing a wireless system for KEF Home Theatre 5000 Series owners and new purchasers. The system eliminates the need to have lengthy speaker cables running from the amplifier to the rear speakers, which can now be located virtually anywhere in the room. CD-quality, interference-free audio is ensured through 2.4GHz wireless transmission technology that uses advanced error protection and sophisticated 'intelligent' adaptive frequency hopping. The KEF Home Theatre 5000 Series comes in a choice of matt silver or high gloss black finishes.

In celebration of thirty years in business, **RBH Sound (stand K120b)** is proudly introducing the T-30LSE. The newest addition to the Signature Series, the T-30LSE is RBH's highest-performance freestanding loudspeaker. The three-way T-30LSE provides pristine audio clarity, can produce extreme sound pressure levels, and is designed for high-end listening rooms and larger home theatres. The T-30LSE is making its European debut and is being demonstrated in the CEDIA Home Cinema Europe stand K120b.

Two new additions to the RBH Sound M Series are the WM-30 and the FM-45. Both use proprietary aluminium cone technology, and are available in satin black or brushed aluminium finishes. The 30-inch WM-30 on-wall loudspeaker has two active and two passive 4-inch woofers and a 1-inch soft dome tweeter, and comes with its own on-wall mounting bracket. The 45-inch tall FM-45 freestanding speaker has a 1-inch soft dome tweeter, two 4-inch aluminium cone mid-woofers and two 8-inch aluminium cone woofers. RBH is also introducing two additions to the A Series in-wall and in-ceiling custom product line-up. The A-616 is an in-wall speaker designed to be used as the main left, centre and right channels of a home theatre system. The A-815D is an in-ceiling speaker intended for locations which can only accommodate one speaker, but require both left and right audio channel support.

Sunfire (stand O80) is showcasing the Cinema Ribbon Trio line of compact on-wall loudspeakers. The CRS-3 is for left and right channels, while the CRS-3C is for centre channel applications. Both will ship in March, and are based on proprietary ribbon technology. The front-firing ribbon

creates detail with controlled dispersion to eliminate unwanted ceiling and floor reflections, while low frequencies are handled by three 4.5-inch high back-EMF woofers.

Other loudspeaker companies to look out for include **Atlantic Technology (stand P36)** with the IWC6-626 In-Wall Closed Box loudspeaker making its European debut.

Mounting

Among the mounting solutions on show, **Chief (stand C20a)** is introducing several new products. These include a universal dual swing arm mount for 30 to 50-inch TVs, a universal single swing arm mount for 26 to 40-inch TVs, a universal non-tilting wall mount for 23 to 45-inch TVs, and a universal tilting wall mount for 23 to 45-inch TVs. The company is also showing a cable channel accessory that hides and protects cables and wires while blending seamlessly with the décor.

HD Distribution, Switching and Scaling

Unicam Europe (stand M173) is displaying Audio Authority Cat5 video distribution products and the AVatrix Home Theatre Routing System. This allows any source to be viewed easily from any video display at any time, and uses Cat5 cable to distribute six HD sources to six remote wallplate locations. It also makes a direct connection to a local display. HD picture and audio are delivered up to 1000ft from the source over a pair of Cat5 cables.

New HD-compatible products being introduced by **Smart-e (stand I131)** include the SNX-16x32 matrix switch. This newly-developed model within Smart-e's range of multipoint-to-multipoint matrix switches, has attracted interest from the high-specification home market, and is designed to be compact, affordable and a great all-rounder. It offers high-definition compatibility, picture clarity and the ability to access a multitude of channels.

MuxLab (stand A17) is showing the Component Video Hub that distributes high-resolution component video (RGB/YPbPr) plus digital audio to up to 8 or 16 displays via Cat5 cable. It supports HDTV (1080i/p) resolution up to 500ft (152m) via Cat5 between the video source and the furthest display, with the hub being situated anywhere within the 500ft range.

Other new HD products to look out for include the **Gefen (stand O60)** Home Theater Scaler for component and HDMI video sources, analogue and digital audio, HD image scaling and source switching; and **TV One (stand A70)** down converters, switcher/scalers, and new range of input expansion switchers.

Cables and Connectors

ICM (stand B72) is showing its new one-piece BNC and RCA compression connectors for mini coax, high-end audio/video wiring and installation. These feature proprietary 360-degree compression technology for creating high-quality, permanent, rock-solid connections, and also feature floating pin and non-blind entry design, allowing installers to see the wire entering the pin at the base of the connector. When tested under stringent standards, the connectors demonstrated superior return loss numbers. ICM is also introducing a radial bubble compression tool and a new line of one-piece, non-blind-entry, bubble connectors, collectively known as the db 360 System.

Other cable and connector companies to look out for include **Tributaries (stand L30)** which is offering 'value-high-end' audio and video cabling; **Toby Electronics (stand I133)** which has a new range of HDMI cables and accessories; **CSI (stand F01)** with its new DVI Over One Fibre system; and **Liberty Wire & Cable (stand J20)** which is offering control cables, active extender plates and panels, HDMI cables and solid-centre mini RGBHV cables.

Tools

D-Tools (stand G30) is demonstrating its System Integrator 5 (SI 5) software for streamlining the design, estimation, and documentation of low-voltage systems. SI 5 allows detailed projects to be created and managed with automated proposals, scheduling, pick lists, purchase orders, drawings and additional documents that streamline the integration of audio and video products. The software uses a single, shared, data-driven project file, that allows system integrators and custom installers to better communicate all project details amongst team members, clients, and other trades. Users can also download free product information from a comprehensive database of products and accessories.

ADVANCED EIB TRAINING COURSE

Email Emma at training@dktgroupp.com
or call +44 (0)7770 778 581 for details of
location, times and to book your place.

FREE to ISE Attendees

INTEGRATED TOOLS INCLUDE

- EIB WEBSERVER
- EIB ADVANCED LOGIC CONTROLLER
- EIB TIMERS (Calendar & Astronomic Clock)
- EIB ADVANCED LIGHTING MOOD CONTROLLER
- EIB AUDIO VIDEO INFRARED CONTROLLER
- EIB MULTIROOM AUDIO CONTROLLER

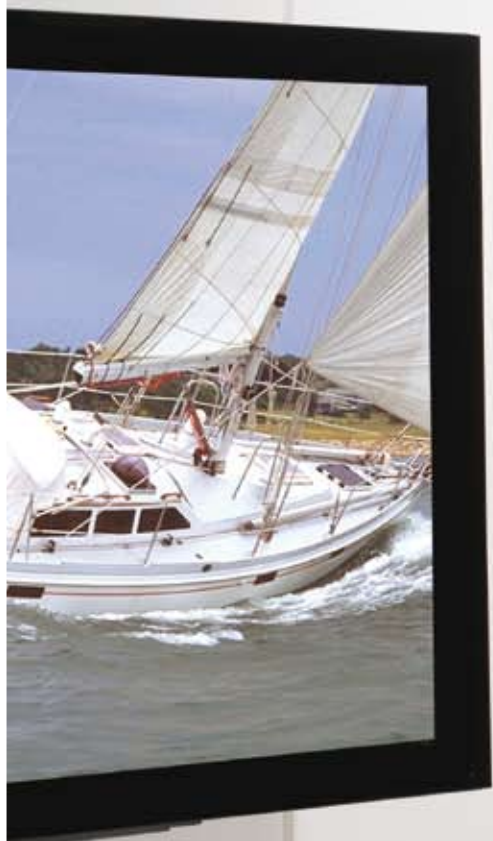


THE UNIQUE UNIVERSAL AV CONTROLLER GATEWAY

www.dktgroup.com/freeway 0870 201 1512



Meridian's new 300 Series. Installation speakers for adults.



Visit **Hall 1, Stand M108** and hear for yourself how Meridian's superior design and construction make our installation loudspeakers perform so well, they'll transform your opinion of how an in-wall can sound.

And don't miss the new **G95 DVD Receiver System**—the complete new multichannel receiver with CD/DVD-Audio/Video playback and five channels of high-power amplification, and the new **C Series** of rack-mount installation products.

Meridian. The unique combination of superb sound and style.

BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN[®]

Tel: +44 (0)1480 445678
www.meridian-audio.com

*C52 Active Subwoofer Controller (below)
and SW320 in-wall subwoofer (right)*



G95 DVD-A/V Surround Receiver System

